

Serial No. 10/593,274
Docket No. SH-0058PCTUS

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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**Please replace Paragraph [0012] with the following Amended paragraph:**

[0012] Here the optical fiber base material is attached to a hanging mechanism so as to be hung in the heating furnace. Here, the optical fiber base material is hung in such a manner that the distorted portion is positioned lower and the elongation axis is substantially parallel to a plumb direction. Then, the distorted portion of the optical fiber base material is heated to be softened. Here, the temperature of a heater for heating the heating furnace preferably falls within the range of 1800 °C and 1900 °C. Here, the elongation is started after a difference between the elongation axis and one of the optical fiber base material and a dummy rod attached to the optical fiber base material is reduced to be no more than a predetermined value. Here, the elongation may be started after a difference between an elongation axis and an end of one of the optical fiber base material and a dummy rod attached to the optical fiber base material is reduced and judged to be 10 mm or less, for example. Here, the different may be a difference between the elongation axis and the end of the dummy rod, and the elongation is started after the difference is reduced to be 10 mm or less, for example.